SYNOPSIS 17

'ONCE A BIG MAN, ALWAYS A BIG MAN'

by

LEE DUNNE

ACT I

In a small Devon harbour, a small boat is being loaded with diving equipment. At the big house overlooking the bay, Clive tells his master, Watt, of the activities in the harbour. A salvage vessel is planning to bring up a fishing boat which sank in the war. The news clearly disturbs Watt. Callan is instructed by Hunter to go to Devon and bring back a safe from the salvage operation. Callan sends 'Lonely' ahead of him to make discreet enquiries about local people. Hunter has said that someone in the area with influence is trying to stop the salvaging. Watt tells Clive that if the safe is brought up and its contents discovered, then he might have to leave. Callan discusses the salvage work with Captain West and is told that the safe has not yet been found. He does not know why the vessel sank or what it was carrying but suggests Callan should contact one of the survivors, who still lives in Polperro, Cornwall. Watt tells his daughter Eva about his fears and warns her about the possibility of having to leave. She does not understand why her father's past, whatever it is, should be a threat to the present. Even when Clive enters to tell them of the arrival of Callan, she cannot take the danger seriously.

ACT II

Lonely tells Callan that Mr. Watt used to be in the government and has been to prison. He also says the sunken ship is said to be full of bombs. There is a loud explosion in the harbour. Hunter sends Meres to support Callan. Watt was a well-known Nazi sympathiser and detained during the war under the Defence Regulations. West tells Callan that someone blew up the fuel tanks in his boat. There will be a further delay in salvaging. Watt gives Clive some money for the survivor. Eva has an argument with her father who is still frightened of Callan and the salvage vessel. Callan sends Lonely to Polperro to find out about the surviving fisherman. Eva suggests that Callan should come to dinner so that they can find out what kind of man he is. Meres arrives

((MORE))

ACT II (cont)

in the village, and tells Callan that the safe contains a list of the names of Hitler's English collaborators - the safe will be raised the next morning. Lonely telephones Callan to say that the fisherman is in hospital with minor burns. Callan tells him to return to the village and watch the big house. Callan tells Watt that he is a scrap-merchant, hence his interest in the wreck. Watt, obviously not believing him, hints at a bribe. He is chairman of an Investment Corporation and can clearly afford a big one. Meres returns from his own visit to Polperro, having discovered that the fisherman was paid by Watt. Callan returns from his dinner party and receives instructions from Hunter to 'push things along'. Eva has a quarrel with her father. He says that if the news of his name on the list 'leaks out', his business will be ruined. Eva protests that he must not simply give up. She is now too fond of the money. Lonely calls on Callan to say that someone has been shot.

ACT III (cont)

Eva and Clive look at the dead body of Watt, slumped across his desk. Clive wants to call the police but she stops him. Callan arrives. Clive disappears. Callan sends Eva out of the room while he looks at the suicide and begins to search round. Lonely walks in to tell him that both Clive and the girl have gone. Callan is afraid that Eva will try to get the safe. They search the room and Callan discovers a copy of the dreaded list which he puts in his pocket. He tells Lonely to ring the police, then goes. Meres and Callan wait in the harbour. Eventually West arrives with the safe. It is loaded into a jeep and Meres and Callan, drive off. On the road out of the village, Eva ambushes them pointlessly. They quickly disarm her. Hunter thanks them for their trouble but says the safe was unfortunately empty. Callan produces his copy of the list.

((ENDS))

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CAST LIST

CAPTAIN WEST	MICHAEL BEINT
CLIVE	MICHAEL FOREST
WATT	BERNARD ARCHARD
CALLAN	EDWARD WOODWARD
HUNTER	DEREK BOND
EVA	JACQUELINE PEARCE
LONELY	RUSSELL HUNTER
BARMAN	MARK MOSS
MERES	ANTHONY VALENTINE

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